gradation of technology particularly for export production, extension of certain fiscal concessions on exports and setting up of 4 more Free Trade Zones at Cochin, Madras, NOIDA (U.P.) and FALTA (W. Bengal) in addition to the existing two Free Trade Zones at Kandla and Santacruz. The scheme of 100% export oriented units which is in operation since 31st December, 1980 is showing good progress. To provide a vigorous thrust to export promotion activities relating to particular product groups, 3 new Export Promotion Councils have been set up, namely, Carpet Export Promotion Council, Indian Silk Export Promotion Council and Export Promotion Council for construction and Civil Engineering industry.

The Import and Export Policy of the country in recent years has increasingly been geared to be export oriented and production oriented. Several liberal measures have been incorporated within the framework of the policy with regard to import of raw materials, components, capital goods and upgradation of technology with further simplification and streamlining of procedures. The Import and Export Policy for the current financial year (1984-85) has been formulated to improve our export performance keeping in view the global economic environment and the needs of the domestic economy.

Continuous efforts are also being made to step up our exports to foreign markets through various measures such as exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions; organising buyer-seller meets; conducting market surveys and dissemination of information and negotiations at Government level to remove constraints in the way of our exports.

For constant monitoring and review of various export promotion policies, schemes and procedures, the Ministry of Commerce has drawn an Action Plan in respect of various commodities and territories. In this Action Plan, action points are identified. The Action Plan is reviewed by the Commerce Minister every month and necessary directions are issued to all concerned for further action. Conferences of CRs (Commercial Representatives) at different regions are also organised from time to time under the Chairmanship of Commerce Minister to identify problems of the region and suitable strategy is evolved to boost our exports.

A high level Committee under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary has also been set up to review, inter-alia the effectiveness of export promotion measures and Import Policies as well as to suggest rationalisation and improvement, wherever required, keeping in view the domestic economic situation as also international context.

**Vacancies on the Boards of nationalised banks**

220. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts of Government representatives on the Boards of nationalised banks are lying vacant; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) There are no vacancies of Government representatives on the Boards of nationalised banks.

(b) Does not arise.

**Smuggling activities on the West Coast**

221. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what fresh steps Government have taken to check smuggling acti-